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THIS LITTLE BROCHURE IS
DEDICATED TO
COL. HENRY C. LOOMIS
BY HIS NEXT BEST FRIEND,
O. H COULTER.

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Henry C. Loomis

INTRODUCTION.

When the records of the Grand Army of the Republic shall have been closed and future historians write of the achievements of men who have taken a leading and active part in maintaining and promoting the best interests of the organization, the name of Colonel Henry C. Loomis will stand prominent among the great leaders of the grandest organization on earth. He is a native born, and a patriotic American of the best type, with sympathies broad enough to include the whole world, esteemed by his fellow citizens and beloved by all who know him. He came of that sturdy New England stock in whose veins the blood of the Puritan flows. Born at Loomis Corners, town of Otto, Cattaraugus County, New York, March 16th, 1834.

He entered the service as a member of Company C, 64th New York, November 1861, and was elected First Lieutenant. He was severely wounded while leading his company at Fair Oaks, Virginia, June 1st, 1862. He assisted in recruiting the 154th New York and was commissioned its Lieutenant Colonel September 25th, 1862.

He is a charter member of Post 85, Winfield, Kansas, Post Commander 1901, and Department Commander 1902. He is a member of Kansas Commandery of the Loyal Legion, and its present Junior Vice Commander.

He came to Kansas in 1871, settled at Winfield, where he still resides. He was the first county clerk of Cowley county and twice Mayor of Winfield.

He has been a Master Mason for over forty years. He joined Lodge 239 at Little Valley, New York, in 1862, while at home on a leave of absence from the army nursing his wounds. Charter member of Winfield Lodge No. 58, A. F. & A. M., High Priest of Winfield Chapter No. 31, Royal Arch Masons, and Eminent Commander of Winfield Commandery No. 15, K. T. for six years. He received the Royal and Select Master degrees in 1895, and is a life member of the Isis Temple Mystic Shrine, also of the Eastern Star, and a past Worthy Patron. He was coronated a 33rd degree inspector general honorary in 1893; also a member of the Loyal Order of Scotland. He has passed the several chairs in the Grand Lodge of Kansas and was Grand Master in 1900.

The above sketch is given as a preface to the matter contained on the following pages copied from the *Western Veteran* of Feb., 1904. This little brochure is printed as a slight compliment to a worthy Comrade by his next best friend. The closer and more carefully we have examined into the motives animating his every action, the nobler he has appeared; generous to a fault, kind hearted and true in his friendships and without a thread of malice in his nature.

COL. H. C. LOOMIS
AS COMMANDER OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF KANSAS

MADE A RECORD FOR WHICH HE DESERVES AND IS
RECEIVING COMMENDATION FROM HIS
COMRADES EVERYWHERE.

The Department of Kansas, Grand Army of the Republic, since its organization has had its years of prosperity and of adversity. Its successes, like that of all other departments, has depended largely, and we might say wholly, upon those at its head as Commanders. Kansas has had a number of commanders who have been and are an honor to the organization. They did well their part; built up the organization in membership, in enthusiasm and cemented more closely the bonds of "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty." Without disparagement to any of these comrades, we are prompted by the record left by Past Department Commander, H. C. Loomis, to say that his year's services to the Department of Kansas, Grand Army of the Republic, for the good of the Order and the state as well, has not been excelled by any of his predecessors.

Taking command at a time when the membership was falling off and the organization in a greatly disrupted condition, he restored harmony and renewed activity in the various Posts to that extent that when his year's labors were ended, the records showed not a delinquent Post, and an in-

crease in membership, with the best of feeling prevailing throughout the entire department. To accomplish this, Colonel Loomis not only devoted his entire time but spent liberally of his means. Hundreds of personal letters and thousands of circulars and printed documents were sent to Posts and to individuals to encourage and stimulate Post work and bring dropped and suspended members back into the Order. The movement to bring about the great semi-Centennial celebration which is to be held here at the State Capital the last of May this year, was started by Col. Loomis.

The greatest display ever made at any National Encampment by any department was that at Washington made by Kansas under Col. Loomis. Kansas was the feature of the great parade, led by Colonel Loomis accompanied by twenty-eight staff officers superbly mounted, three Kansas bands and the celebrated Modoc Club and eight hundred men in line each carrying a sunflower umbrella; a sight that was never equalled and will never be seen again. This all took money and lots of it, and Loomis footed the big end of the bill. These results were obtained because the comrade's heart was in the work; because he loved the organization and the men that composed it. His ambition was to further its interests and build it up not only in membership but in the esteem and affection of the people of the commonwealth. His effort was not a selfish one; he seeks no political preferment. What he has done has been for the good of his comrades.

The final work of his year was completed when he delivered to Department Headquarters the printed journal containing the record of his administration as Com-

mander. This document is said to be the finest, most complete, and best ever published by any department commander. In addition to the matter usually contained in a department journal, Colonel Loomis at his own expense, embellished the cover with a splendid portrait of the founder of the Order, B. F. Stephenson; also within its pages the portraits of nine past department commanders whose pictures have never before appeared in a journal; pictures of several soldier monuments; two past national commanders who were in office during his term; national presidents of the Woman's Relief Corps and Ladies of the G.A.R. who visited the Department during his term of office, and other illustrations and department data that make this journal one of great value to the department.

We cannot in the limited space of this publication reprint the columns of favorable and flattering comment published in the press of the state and country of Col. Loomis' successful administration. On a recent visit to his home at Winfield, we were shown several hundred letters from comrades and friends who have been favored with copies of the Journal of the 22d Annual Encampment, and were permitted to make copies of a few of them, which we take great pleasure in presenting. These letters will not only give an idea of the splendidly prepared and handsomely printed journal, but will show how his excellent work for the Grand Army is appreciated by comrades who are interested in the success of the organization.

Leavenworth, Kansas,
Jan. 11, 1904.

Dear Sir and Comrade:

I have just received your report of the proceedings of the 22nd Annual Encampment, and will say it is the best I have seen. There seems to be nothing omitted or overlooked and it is certainly one of the best issued by any Department. The G. A. R. is passing rapidly to the last muster, and although the picture and portraits are all of the young men who wore the Blue, we are



now wearing the "Gray," but to the honor of those who wear the gray. But the heart swells and tears unbidden come in our eyes as we think of the voice that is still and miss the touch of the hand that is dead.

The report is exceptionally good. There is nothing omitted and in makeup and printing it is admirable, and will be appreciated and valued by all. We fully appreciate the labor of putting up such a report and it is complimentary, not only to yourself, but a credit to the "soldier state."

I am suffering from the service in that great struggle that commenced in front of the "Capitol" and ended in my adopted state of Kansas, where I will have the satisfaction of ending my days, and will sleep in peace in the National Cemetery at Fort Leavenworth (by request) where the guns will always "boom" but will not disturb my rest. Yours fraternally while life lasts,

J. C. Walkinshaw,
Past Department Commander

Los Angeles, Cal. Jan. 19, 1904.

Dear Comrade:

It is with no little pleasure I received a few days ago a copy of the journal of the 22nd Annual Encampment of the Kansas G. A. R. The book is more elegantly gotten up than any former issue of any of your predecessors, and certainly will always be a credit to the author. The illustrations are especially good, and I must thank you personally for the inserting of my own likeness, when there were so many others who have always made Kansas their home. I want to assure you, however, that while I thought it best to remove to this more mild climate on the coast, yet in all your acquaintance and comrades you have not a friend who is more loyal to Kansas and all that appertains to her good name, than he who pens these lines. I hold my membership in Post 63 of Abilene, Kansas, and have never had a thought of changing. I meet the comrades at National Encampments and march with them, sit with them in the Encampment, vote with them, visit with them and always enjoy it.

The matter and makeup of your journal is especially good, and I flatter myself I am somewhat of a judge, having been a publisher for twenty years. All of your Kansas comrades ought to feel especially proud of such a production and not forget him who gave them this splendid piece of work. And now, my dear comrade, with the expressed wish that you may have length of days, spent in peace, prosperity and happiness, I am,

Very sincerely your friend in F. C. and L.
C. J. McDivitt,
Past Department Commander.

Topeka, Kansas, Jan. 29, 1904.
My Dear Colonel:

I am simply delighted with the published proceedings of the 22nd annual



encampment of the Department of Kansas, Grand Army of the Republic. Nothing of the kind has ever been attempted before and you have set a mighty lively pace for your successors.

The handsome cut of

Comrade Stephenson on the outside cover and the half tone cuts of the Past Department Commanders in the body of the book are not only splendid portraits but exhibit the highest style of the printer's art. When I was Department Commander we were a little old fashioned and the fellows only knew me by my whiskers. I am glad that times have changed and that your likeness will always be in my library. The publication reflects great credit on the Grand Army of the Republic and your very efficient administration.

Yours in F. C. and L.

T. J. Anderson,
Past Department Commander.

* * *

Guthrie, Oklahoma, Jan. 17, 1904.
Dear Comrade and Friend:

I received from you a few days ago the records of the proceedings of the Department of Kansas G. A. R. I do not know of anything that could have been sent to me that would have given me more pleasure. It is the record of the proceedings of that body of patriots who conferred upon me the highest honor that I

will ever attain and bequeath to my children. Henry, you don't know how I love those dear old battle scarred veterans, and I can't tell you with words.

The book is an artistic gem in the way it has been published, and was never equalled by any department in the Union, and has set a new pace that will be a record breaker for many years to come, in that kind of work. It was very kind in you to put my old face in with many of my dear old friends, and I sincerely thank you for it. Give my love to all the boys and tell them I am well and happy, and if they come to Guthrie that they must come and see me.

I remain as ever yours,

T. H. Soward,
Past Department Commander.

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Department of the Interior,
Washington, Jan. 27, 1904.

My Dear Comrade:

I have received from Comrade Coulter a copy of the journal of the 22nd Annual Encampment. It is simply excellent in every respect. Your administration as Department Commander has been of exceptional merit. You have been untiring in your work in the interest of the comrades. You have been selfsacrificing in a degree that should command the gratitude of the G. A. R. people of the state. You have been successful in so large a measure that your term of office will long be remembered with the kindest appreciation.

It is with sincere pleasure that I address you these words of commendation. I hope during the remainder of your life you will be permitted to enjoy the happiness and comforts you so richly deserve.

Yours fraternally, Thos. Ryan.

Minneapolis, Minn.

Jan. 11, 1904.

Dear Comrade Loomis:

This morning's mail brought me a copy of the journal of the 22nd Annual

Encampment of your department, and I at once suspended the regular order of office duties to look it over. It is certainly a fine journal. The mechanical work is unsurpassed, the illustrations are excellent, and the photographs of great interest and value

I recognize with much satisfaction the picture of J. C. Walkinshaw of my old regiment, whom I have not seen for forty years. The badge is a beauty. You made a good commander and left a record that will be hard to match. I congratulate you and wish you many years of happiness.

Fraternally yours,

Ell Torrence,
Past Commander-in-Chief.

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Topeka, Kans., Jan. 12, 1904.
My Dear Comrade:

I am in receipt of a magnificent copy of the journal of the 22nd Annual Encampment, for which please accept my sincere thanks. The Journal is well edited and artistically executed, and reflects great credit upon yourself and the department.

I trust that you have set the pace for future department commanders. In this connection I desire to express my sincere congratulations to you for the able and dignified manner you so faithfully discharged the duties of commander of the depart-



ment. You devoted your time and your purse without stint, in the interests of our comrades during your administration.

Fraternally,
John Guthrie,
Past Department Commander.

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Wichita, Kans., Jan. 10, 1904.

Dear Sir and Comrade:

I must congratulate you on publishing the most perfect report ever sent out



in Kansas or any other state in the Union, for that matter. Your illustration of B. F. Stephenson on the title page is unique. And in my memory I can see him as he was in 1866 when I knew him, personally. I belonged to No. 7, one among the first posts organized by him in Indiana, and you cannot tell how I was pleased to see his picture on frontispiece. I think future department commanders of Kansas can take pattern after it and make the old comrades feel proud of our state. All the boys of our post wish you a long and happy life. Wishing you success I remain,

Yours in F. C. and L.
J. M. Minick.

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Buffalo, N. Y., Jan. 11, 1904.

Dear Commander:

I am in receipt from Col. O. H. Coulter of a copy of the journal of the 22nd Annual Encampment of your department and want to congratulate you on its appearance and makep. It certainly is fine and I shall take pleasure in reading it all through.

Fraternally yours,

C. A. Orr,

Past Dept. Commander, N.Y. G.A.R.

Le Sueur, Minn., Jan. 27, 1904.
Dear Sir:

I want to acknowledge to you personally for the receipt of your most excellent Journal. I have enjoyed reading its every page, for each one is full of that true spirit of patriotism that characterizes



every portion of your beloved department. Allow me to refer to your report—it is replete with most interesting facts, it could not be better. The illustrations are fine; the one of the parade brings to mind that beautiful panorama of the moving garden of "Sunflowers" transplanted from their beautiful western home and planted, for the time being, in our National Capital. It was a lovely sight. I am so glad to have this picture. Also the other illustrations of the badge, the invitations and all are beautiful and so fitting to be in your journal. And last, but not least, I want to thank you for the high honor conferred upon our organization of women by placing the pictures of our leaders in your journal.

We who were privileged, by the courtesy of our Commander-in-Chief, to be guests of the Department of Kansas, on our return trip from California, will never forget our hearty welcome in your beautiful capital city of Topeka.

The frontispiece, bearing your picture, Col. Loomis, is indeed perfect. I think one of the finest engravings I have ever seen. And the beautiful embossed cover in gold bearing upon its face the picture of B. F. Stephenson, the founder of your beloved

order, "The Grand Army of the Republic", is indeed most appropriate. I want to thank you most sincerely for the journal. I hope in a few days to be able to send you the journal of my Convention.

I am most respectfully yours in F. C. L.

Lodusky J. Taylor,

Past Nat'l President W. R. C.

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Topeka, Kans., Dec. 21, 1903.

Dear Sir and Comrade:

Comrade Coulter presented me a copy of the proceedings of the last department encampment. You are to be congratulated upon its appearance and contents in every way. The unusual enterprise which has characterized its compilation is most worthy of you, and makes it at once an interesting and valuable addition to the choice literature of the grandest body of men on earth. Believe me,

Ever thine in F. C. and L.

J. G. Wood.

* * *

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 8, 1904.

My Dear Sir and Comrade:

I have this day received a copy of your report as Department Commander, and I most heartily thank you for your kindly remembrance of me, and congratulate you upon its splendid appearance and contents. You have just cause to be proud of the book and the record it contains.

Sincerely yours, W. F. Henry,
 Past Dept. Commander.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 12, 1904.
My Dear Col. Loomis:

I find pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the proceedings of the 22nd Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas, G.A.R. The journal is a most attractive and valuable publication. I have looked it over with much interest. The plates therein are very fine, and I was especially pleased to note plate showing the Department of Kansas in the parade at Washington, in October, 1902. I appreciate the Journal very highly, by reason of the splendid engraving of yourself. The whole book reflects great credit upon those who compiled it, and you are entitled to great consideration for the personal assistance rendered in the furnishing of plates, and meeting of other expenses. With best wishes, I am

Very fraternally yours,
Thos. J. Stewart,
Past Commander-in-Chief.

* * *

Dodge City, Jan. 30, 1904.
My Dear Colonel:

On my return to Dodge City I found awaiting me a copy of the report of the Department of Kansas during your administration, for which you will please accept my thanks. I wish to say that it is a most excellent report. It is artistically put up with many fine engravings and is a credit to you and your administration and will be looked upon for many years with pride by those who were a part of your official family as members of the G.A.R., and I



desire to compliment you for the success of your many undertakings in the interests of our Order. Hoping that you may live to enjoy many happy years, I am,

Yours in F. C. and L,
D. L. Sweeney.

* * *

Washington, D. C., Jan. 12, 1904.

Dear Comrade:

I am in receipt of the proceedings of the Department of Kansas which you so kindly sent me, and I want to compliment you highly upon the typographical and artistic style of the work. It is unusually fine, and reflects great credit upon you and the Department of Kansas.



Yours in F. C. and L.

John McElroy,
National Tribune.

* * *

Enid, Oklahoma, Jan. 14, 1904.

Dear General:

I am in receipt of a copy of the proceedings of the 22nd Annual Encampment. It is certainly the best gotten up report I have ever seen. You have done the Department "proud" by the pains-taking manner in which you have prepared it. The portrait of Stevenson on the cover will preserve that cover in many a G.A.R. man's home. Your own portrait is without a flaw. I can almost imagine I am talking to you as I look at the picture. Hoping for you long life, happiness, and prosperity I am,

Yours in F. C. L.
D. W. Eastman,
Past Department Commander.

Versailles, Mo., Jan. 11, 1904.
My Dear Friend and Comrade:

I have just received from Col. Coulter
a copy of the journal of the 22nd Annual



Encampment. Permit
me to thank you for the
splendid manner in which
you have presented the
affairs of the department.
Very few comrades have
the ability, and possess
as well the generous heart

to take such good care of the G. A. R. as
you have done. I will prize always, very
much this volume as well as the very pleas-
ant acquaintance I have always had with
you. Hoping the New Year will find you
in good health and prosperous.

Yours truly,
J. K. Hudson,
Past Junior Vice Commander.

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Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C., Jan. 18, 1904.
My Dear Colonel:

I just received the proceeding of your
22nd Annual Encampment held at Mc-
Pherson on May 21, 22, last, for which
accept my many thanks. It is a very in-
teresting document. I read your report
with much interest; you certainly made a
good showing; Smith will have to get a
bustle on if he compares favorably with
what you did for the good of the "old boys."
I still hold my membership in Post
68, Olathe. The old boys are fast passing
away. I hope congress will pass a service
pension act at this session, so that all now
living may receive some recognition for
faithful service in their country's defense.

Yours fraternally,
S. R. Burch,

Ottawa, Kansas, Jan. 11, 1904

Dear Comrade:

I have a copy of the splendid report made by you, being the proceedings of your administration, for which please accept my sincere thanks. It is a gem. The Department of Kansas is indebted to you for the work done and the money spent by you in behalf of the Order. Wishing for you good health and many more years to enjoy your well earned honors, I am,

Fraternally yours,

John P. Harris,
Past Department Commander.

* * *

Department of Interior
Bureau of Pensions.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 11, 1904.

My Dear Mr. Loomis:

I am pleased to receive a copy of the Department Journal with a most excellent portrait of yourself in it. I think during your administration you brought things up to a pretty high grade. I doubt if it will ever get so high again; I hope so however, and would be willing to do all I could to promote it. Yours truly,

E. F. Ware.

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Headquarters Dept. of Missouri.
St. Louis, Jan. 15, 1904.

Dear Comrade:

I desire to thank you for the copy of the journal of your 22nd Annual Encampment, which I lately received. It is beautifully gotten up and does you and the department of which you were last year the commander, great credit.

Fraternally yours, Thos. B. Rogers,
A. A. G.

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